

Summary

Claims 1-4 were pending. Claims 3 and 4 have been rewritten, Claims 1 and 2 cancelled, and Claims 5-8 added. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

Claim Rejections

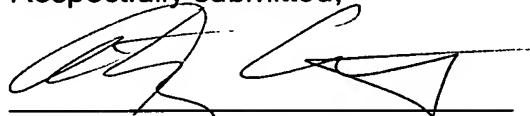
Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Shastri (U.S. Patent 5,844,928) and Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shastri in view of Tsunekawa (U.S. Patent 4,639,924).

Claims 3-4 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but the Examiner indicated it would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten Claims 3 and 4 to incorporate the elements of Claims 1 and 2 and has cancelled Claims 1 and 2. Applicant has added Claims 5-8 and submits that Claims 5-8 are patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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